

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EA/K:DAO'DONOHUE:CHG

APPROVED BY EA - MR HABIB

IO - MR BUFFUM

S/S-O:DLMACK

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KS, KN, UNGA

SUBJECT: KOREAN QUESTION AT THE UN

1. ROK FOREIGN MINISTER KIM DONG JO MET NOVEMBER 20 WITH HABIB AND BUFFUM FOR INITIAL INFORMAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON FUTURE STRATEGY REGARDING KOREA QUESTION IN THE UN.

2. OBVIOUSLY REFLECTING ROK INTEREST IN TAKING AN EARLY VISIBLE TACTICAL INITIATIVE, KIM THREW OUT SEVERAL SUGGESTIONS. HE SAID THAT ROKG WISHES TO MAKE SPECIFIC PROPOSAL FOR MEETING OF US, PRC, DPRK AND ROK BEFORE THE JANUARY 1 UNC CONDITIONAL TERMINATION DATE EMBODIED IN OUR UNGA PROPOSALS. AS ENVISIONED BY KIM, ROK AND US WOULD PROPOSE A DATE AND PLACE FOR MEETING OF FOUR GOVERNMENTS TO DRAMATIZE OUR WILLINGNESS TO MEET WITH THE OTHER SIDE.

3. KIM ALSO SAID THAT SYG WALDHEIM HAD INDICATED THAT, IF ASKED BY ROKG AND USG, HE WOULD BE WILLING TO APPROACH NORTH KOREA ON QUESTION OF CONTINUATION OF THE ARMISTICE

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AGREEMENT. ANOTHER POSSIBILITY CONSIDERED BY ROKG WOULD

BE TO PROPOSE A MEETING OF ROK AND DPRK FONMIN TO
DRAMATIZE ROK READINESS TO RESUME DIALOGUE.

4. BOTH HABIB AND BUFFUM CAUTIONED THAT ROK
NOT UNDERTAKE ANY PUBLIC STATEMENTS WITH REGARD TO
KOREAN QUESTION BEFORE PEKING VISIT. KIM AGREED TO THIS.
THEY ALSO STRESSED THAT WE SHOULD VERY CAREFULLY STUDY
OUR GENERAL APPROACH TO THE NEXT UNGA AND NOT MAKE ANY
EARLY PRECIPITATE DECISIONS. AT THE SAME TIME, HABIB
AND BUFFUM PROMISED THAT WE WOULD GIVE KIM AND ROKG MORE
CONSIDERED REACTION IN NEAR FUTURE TO THEIR DESIRE TO
TAKE SOME PUBLIC INITIATIVE ALONG LINES PARAS 2 AND 3.

5. WITH REGARD TO BASIC QUESTIONS OF HOW TO APPROACH
NEXT UNGA CONSIDERATION OF KOREAN QUESTION, KIM QUERIED
WHETHER CHINESE WOULD BE WILLING TO AVOID DEBATE NEXT
YEAR. HABIB AND BUFFUM INDICATED THAT WHILE WE WOULD HAVE
BETTER VIEW AFTER PEKING VISIT, WE WOULD NOT EXPECT
CHINESE TO PLAY SUCH A ROLE GIVEN OUR PAST EXPERIENCES.

6. KIM, HABIB AND BUFFUM WERE AGREED THAT MOST PROBABLE
SCENARIO WOULD BE NORTH KOREAN EFFORT TO FORCE ANOTHER
DEBATE ON KOREAN QUESTION NEXT YEAR. IT AGREED THAT
WE MUST, IN ANTICIPATION OF ANOTHER DEBATE, STUDY POSSIBLE
NEW ELEMENTS WE COULD INTRODUCE INTO OUR APPROACH
INCLUDING QUESTION OF UNC UNILATERAL TERMINATION. WHILE
NOTING THAT THIS QUESTION MUST BE ADDRESSED, HABIB AND
BUFFUM POINTED OUT THERE ARE OBVIOUSLY VERY SERIOUS
ISSUES WITH REGARD TO UNC WHICH WE MUST STUDY CAREFULLY;
AS WELL AS OTHER OPTIONS TO BETTER POSITION OURSELVES
ON KOREAN QUESTION.

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